

Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Full Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Present: Neal Baxter, Julia Curran, Peter Vader, Tamir Ali Mohamud, Donna Hemp, Jim Welsch; Matthew Dyrdaahl, Julie Danzl, Sonja Burseth, Heather Gillich, Heidi Schallberg, Millicent Flowers; Emily Wade, Our Streets; Luís Dax and Tion Elder, pedestrians

Peter Vader called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM and asked for introductions from all present.

Lacking a quorum, we discussed proposed resolutions, but could not vote on them. Nor did we approve the minutes from the February meeting.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee Meeting—Peter Vader

At our February meeting we discussed what kind of infrastructure makes a city walk-friendly. We composed a list of attributes which we will review again. Peter allowed that he went on another stroll through his ward with Council Member Jeremy Schroeder. They frequently had to resort to walking in the street, as the sidewalks were too slippery for inattentive walkers. However, the corners had none of the mounds of snow of past years.

A reminder that the Council's Transportation & Public Works Committee will look at the Transportation Action Plan on March 9, and later Kathleen Mayell of Public Works will walk the P&P committee through the fine points of the Plan at our next meeting.

Winter Maintenance was our next topic. We talked about what has changed since Deputy Public Works Chief Lisa Cerney visited the committee. We agreed to invite Mike Kennedy, Director of the Transportation Maintenance & Repair Division of Public Works. He can give us a progress report on the new procedures this winter, including faster ticketing and more frequent plowing of corners.

We also talked about how to recruit new members. Peter and Barb are writing promotional material, Julia is preparing a flyer to hand out to potential applicants, and Christopher Hoffer plans to ask the City for help attracting a diverse pool of applicants.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Meeting—Julia Curran

We heard about several projects and wrote a few resolutions. Several intersections on West 50th Street and the corner of Broadway & Johnson in Northeast will get ADA-compliant ramps. The 50th Street segment will receive new bumpouts, and all the signalized intersections will get overhead masts, zebra crosswalks, and APS and countdown timers.

The Hennepin & Harmon project will use federal funding to give 5 intersections new pedestrian safety features. Bumpouts on Hennepin are not certain to be built, as the coming BRT buses can merge more quickly into traffic without them. We urged Public Works to consider building the bumpouts anyway.

The Grant Street Protected Bikeway came before the committee again. This project will build a 2-way bikeway in front of the Convention Hall, and from Grant to 15th Street on 1st Avenue. First Avenue is due for re-design in a few years, so that segment will be a temporary installation.

Safety improvements at East 29th Street & Bloomington Avenue were next on our agenda. Bump outs are planned, and also a new connection to the Midtown Greenway. We also heard how the community responded to this project. This project is at the 0% design stage and will come to us again soon. Work is scheduled to begin in summer of 2020.

The Luella Anderson Residential Reconstruction project, proposed for an area in Hiawatha neighborhood, will include new signage, pavement markings and narrowing of traffic lanes. This area has some of the oldest concrete roadways in the city, and they need major work. ADA ramps are included in the work to be done here.

The last project we heard about was the **28th Avenue South Pedestrian Safety Project**. This is a Safe Routes to School project, with Northrop School one of the destinations in play. This street is too old to support the weight of bumpouts, so a median has been proposed instead. However, as school buses need to turn at the corner, a median may not be feasible.

Announcements

Emily: Hennepin County will host an open house on March 5, from 4-7 PM, to give the public a chance to comment on their Franklin Corridor Study. The open house is at Plymouth Church, and the entrance is on the LaSalle side of the building.

Neal moved to adjourn; Donna seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 4:48 PM.